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REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1-7 and 11-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 9-14 stand rejected. Claims 15-27 have been canceled by this amendment. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reese (4,141,709).

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Reese teaches an apparatus for producing glass fibers having spray nozzles 18, 22 which direct cooling liquid (emphasis added) i.e., water at the glass filaments (see col. 3, lines 56-59). Reese specifically teaches directing liquid from the spray nozzles. Nowhere does Reese teach directing air at the filaments.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify the first nozzle as a "first air nozzle". Nowhere does Reese teach or suggest an apparatus having a first nozzle which directs air at the filaments, as Applicants' claim (claim 1).

It would not have been obvious to direct air from the nozzles of Reese as Reese specifically teaches that the environment below the glass fiber forming bushing is controlled by creating a vortex of air in front of the bushing using a pair of cooling panels, flowing a liquid (emphasis added) cooling fluid across the filaments via spray nozzles and carrying the cooling fluid upwardly toward the bushing by means of the air vortex to thereby create a mist or fog of liquid cooling fluid in the region immediately below the bushing (col. 2, lines 27-35).

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 clearly defines over Reese. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (4,033,742) in view of Flautt et al. (5,055,119).

The Examiner states that claims 7 and 9-14 are clearly met by Nichols et al. in view of Flautt et al..

The Examiner states that Nichols et al. show the invention of bushing 14, two different nozzles 16 and 16' where they are both downstream of the bushing and 16' (the second nozzle) being downstream of the other nozzle.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to further clarify that "said second nozzle directs a second fluid at the filaments downstream of said air directed by said first nozzle". Nichols et al. teach, at col. 8, lines 59-60, that nozzles 16, 16' are arranged in a generally opposing relationship on two sides of the orifice area. As shown in Fig. 4 of Nichols et al., the air directed from nozzles 16, 16' contacts the filaments in the same area. The "generally opposing relationship" of nozzles 16, 16', would not permit the air directed from either nozzle 16 or 16' to be directed at filaments downstream, as Applicants claim.

Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 2-4 and 6, which ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 7 and 11-14, which ultimately depend from claim 7, be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reese as applied to claim 1, above, and further in view of Haruch (6,161,778).

As stated above, Reese does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention (claim 1). Claims 4-5 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain the limitations

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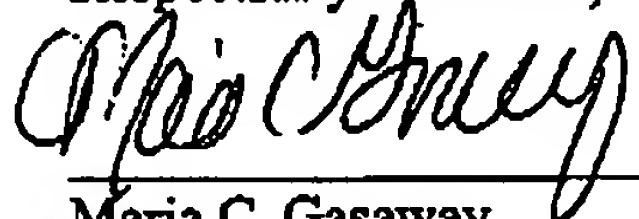
thereof. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejection of claims 4-5, which ultimately depend from claim 1, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-7 and 11-14 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited. If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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